

SEATTLE WOMEN

Fall 2000

Volume 16, No. 1

The Seattle Women's Commission (SWC) is a 20-member volunteer citizens board that advises the Mayor, City Council, and City departments on issues of concern to women. Contact us at (206) 684-0549.

WEBSITE ALERT! **WEBSITE ALERT!** The Seattle Women's Commission is integrating the newsletter, *Seattle Women*, into our existing website. This will facilitate more up-to-date information sharing with our readers. If you prefer to "receive" the newsletter on-line and want us to alert you about website updates, send us your e-mail address by clicking on that option when you visit the website:

www.cityofseattle.net/civil/swc.htm

Visit the site often for the latest information on issues affecting women locally and around the world!!

Year 2000- 2001 Work Plan

The **Seattle Women's Commission** (SWC) is mandated by Seattle City Ordinance to advise the Mayor and City Council on matters concerning women. The SWC recommends policies to City departments and offices on issues of importance to the women of Seattle.



Basic components of the SWC work plan:
ADVOCACY, NETWORKING, OPERATIONS

ADVOCACY

The SWC adopted **CEDAW** as its primary project during 2000 and 2001. CEDAW, the United Nations **C**onvention for the **E**limination of all forms of **D**iscrimination **A**gainst **W**omen, was adopted by the UN over twenty years ago but has yet to be ratified by the U.S. Congress. It is the most far-reaching, progressive testament that exists to address gender equity and the rights of women around the world.

The SWC will work with the appropriate legislative bodies and interested community groups to organize for the passage of CEDAW into City law. The SWC seeks to utilize CEDAW as a tool through which a human rights standard can be applied when examining policies and laws for the City of Seattle.

Continuing 2000-2001 priorities:

Anti-Harassment – the SWC completes work by mid-year 2000 on this long-term project begun in 1995; a final report will show all steps involved in training administrators, teachers, and students at four secondary schools about all forms of harassment, about school policy, and what to do if harassment occurs in school

Homelessness – the SWC continues its focus on solutions to homelessness for women in Seattle

Legislative Issues – the SWC will adopt a legislative agenda of priorities for women, and will work with state and local jurisdictions for passage of laws which benefit women and their families

Workplace Issues – the SWC will release the results of a survey it conducted in 1999 of female firefighters

NETWORKING

NACW – the SWC serves as Northwest Regional Coordinator for NACW, the National Association of Commissions for Women; NACW sets a national legislative and policy agenda.

Community events – the SWC participates during the year in community events, as co-sponsor or supporter; Commissioners participate in International Women's Day, Women Take Back the Night, Beijing+5 initiatives, and Human Rights Day. The SWC also works closely with the Seattle Homeless Women's Coalition and the Children's Budget Coalition.

OPERATIONS

Executive Committee – meets to set the monthly agenda and propose action on Commission business

Nominations Committee – recruits, interviews, and makes recommendations to appointing authorities for filling vacancies; Commissioners serve two year terms that end on June 30th

Issue Committees – currently, the SWC maintains the following four Issue Committees: Anti-Harassment, Children's-Legislative, Homelessness, Workplace; committees conduct research, monitor related community initiatives, carry out projects, public events



Commission Meetings

The Seattle Women's Commission meets on the third Monday evening of each month from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. in Room 221, Municipal Building, 600 4th Avenue. Volunteers are welcome!

All meetings are open to the public.



Become a Commissioner!

The SWC seeks candidates for membership on the Commission. Bring your energy and willingness to work with women from diverse backgrounds. Call (206) 684-0549.

1999 Accomplishments

(partial list)



Anti-Harassment Project in Seattle Schools

- anti-harassment training and education for all staff (over 400) and all students (over 4,000) in the four secondary schools

Child Care & Welfare Reform: Who’s Minding the Children?

public forum in February to discuss families going from welfare to work and the conditions of child care services

Legislative Work development of a Legislative Agenda, worked in coordination with the City’s Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR)

Homelessness served as Co-Chair for the Seattle Women’s Homeless Coalition, assisted in seeking funds for continued programs for homeless women

Women’s Progress Awards joint project with King County Women’s Advisory Board to survey employers, honoring those who promote women in the workplace

CEDAW UN Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, introduced CEDAW as a potential human rights impact statement within Seattle City government

Female Fire Fighters Survey conducted survey of female fire fighters to assess work atmosphere for women within the Seattle Fire Department

Meet the Commissioners!

CHAIR Runette Mitchell – Corrections Program Administrator, King County
VICE CHAIR Diane Powers – YWCA Reg. Dir., Homeless Services, Sea-King-Snohomish Counties

COMMISSIONERS

Teresa Abellera – Seattle University History-English Major
Florence Adeyemi – Editor, community newspaper African Forum News
Phyllis Bass – Homeless Women’s Advocate
Kathy Baxter – Community arts manager
Laura Blaske – YWCA Community Affairs Dir.
Ahndrea Blue – Counsel to Governor Locke
Jane Boyajian – Dir., Tacoma-Pierce County Commission of Children, Youth and their families
Aaron Clefton – UW Women’s Studies/Political Science Major
Jody Drew – Educator
Sue Feeder – VP Bank of America
Aaliyah Gupta – Artist, Chaya Project Manager
Marita Holdaway – Gallery owner
Hyeok Kim – Legislative aide in Olympia
Alison Pence – Community Affairs Consultant
Michelle Sanidad – CEO United Indians of All Tribes Foundation
Deborah Terry-Hays – Dir. West Region National Coalition Building Institute
Indra Trujillo – Training Manager NW Institute for Children and Families

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The SWC bids farewell to Ms. Bryn Savage as she proceeds to college this fall. Ms. Savage joined the Commission in July 1999 as a high school senior, and has now been admitted to Smith College in the State of Massachusetts. Our best wishes to you in your academic pursuits, Bryn!



Diane Piña, Commission & Outreach Staff from the City’s Office for Civil Rights (SOCR), leaves her position in September for a new SOCR position as Senior Training & Education Coordinator. Over the years, Diane has provided strong staff support for Commission activities. She performs the Commission duties with a unique passion. Although we’ll miss her presence, we are excited for Diane as she moves on.

Thank you Diane, and good luck in your new job!

Seattle Women’s Commission
700 Third Avenue, Suite 250
Seattle, WA 98104-1849

Thank you!

Commissioner Florence Adeyemi,
editor of this edition of Seattle Women; Diane Piña,
SOCR Commission & Outreach staff for design and coordination; thanks to all Commissioners who contributed to this newsletter!

